

Appl. No. 10/245,178
Amdt. dated June 16, 2005
Reply to Office Action of March 30, 2005

REMARKS

This is responsive to the final Office Action dated March 30, 2005 in which claims 2, 5, 11, 13, 16 and 22-24 were allowed. Additionally, claims 25 and 26 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but otherwise allowable. Applicant greatly appreciates the allowance of these claims.

The Office Action also indicates that claims 1, 3, 4, 6-10, 12, 14, 15, 17-21 and 27-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Farquhar in view of Miller '681. This prior art rejection is basically the same as presented in the previous Office Action dated October 20, 2004. In response to that October, 2004 Office Action, Applicant filed an amendment dated January 11, 2005 in which the dependency of claims 3, 4, 6-10, 14, 15, 17-21 and 27-30 was changed to depend directly or indirectly from one of the allowed claims. However, the final Office Action of March 30, 2005 does not recognize these prior amendments. As such, Applicant has not further amended these dependent claims but has presented them herein so that all of the claims in this case, with the exception of claims 1 and 12, depend directly or indirectly from one of the allowed claims.

In response to a telephone inquiry from the undersigned attorney, the Examiner acknowledged on May 25, 2005 that only claims 1 and 12 should have been rejected in the Office Action.

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Claims 1 and 12 have been cancelled herein without conceding the accuracy or validity of the prior art rejection in an effort to advance the prosecution of this application toward allowance.

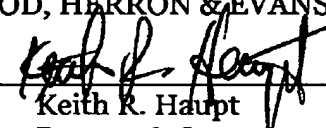
As a result of the amendments to the claims previously presented in this application as well as the cancellation of claims 1 and 12, Applicant respectfully asserts that claims 2-11 and 13-30 are now in complete condition for allowance.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests Notice of Allowance with respect to claims 2-11 and 13-30 at the Examiner's earliest convenience. If the Examiner feels that any matter in this case requires further attention prior to issuing a Notice of Allowance, he is respectfully asked to telephone the undersigned attorney so that the matter may be promptly resolved. Moreover, Applicant respectfully requests that this amendment be entered pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.116 in that it does not introduce any new issues and places the claims in better condition for allowance and/or appeal, if needed.

Respectfully submitted,

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